

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAMS
-- JUNEAU

130 Seward Street, Suite 508
P.O. BOX 110612
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0612
PHONE: (907) 465-3100
FAX: (907) 465-3416

April 12, 2012

Invitation to Participate in the 2012 - 2013 Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Spring is here, and it's time to prepare for the upcoming Farmers' Market season. Last year, farmers' markets and farmstands provided WIC participants with benefits that purchased \$161,800 in fresh, Alaska-grown fruits and vegetables, and another 58,505 was purchased through the Senior FMNP program. In 2012, for the first time, farmers markets, farmers, and farmstands will be authorized for two seasons, and future renewals will be on a two-year cycle.

Important dates for the FMNP and SFMNP:

April 15, 2012 – August 31, 2012: Application period for farmers' markets, farmers, and farmstands. Applications received by the Alaska WIC Program after August 31, 2012 will be returned, and the applicant will have an opportunity to apply in the spring of 2013 for the remainder of the cycle.

June 1, 2012 – October 31, 2012: Authorized farmers may accept WIC Farmers' Market Coupons, WIC Fruit & Vegetable Vouchers (FVVs), and Senior Farmers' Market Coupons (where available).

November 30, 2012: The last date that an authorized farmer may deposit an FMNP Coupon in the bank. Coupons deposited after that date will not be redeemed. This is also the last date that a SFMNP coupon may be received by the Assigned Payment Agency for redemption.

FMNP / SFMNP Application Process:

- 1) Complete and sign the enclosed application, banking form, and vendor agreement.
- 2) On your application, list the number of "WIC Accepted Here" posters and FMNP / SFMNP Vendor Manuals you will need.
- 3) If you are selling from your farm or farmstand, provide any details of location or driving directions that will help participants find your sales location(s). We will provide location and contact information to participants. In order to be included in the WIC-authorized farmer's list for participants, your information must be received by June 1, 2012.
- 4) Send the completed application packet to the WIC Program Office at the address listed above. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your use.
- 5) The WIC Program will review your application and contact you if any additional information is required. You will receive notice of your authorization by mail, along with a signed copy of your vendor agreement.

- 6) If you are a new vendor, a vendor number will be assigned to you, and you will receive a vendor number stamp that must be used on all FMNP and SFMNP Coupons and FVVs before redeeming them. You may not accept the coupons or vouchers from participants until you have received your authorization and vendor stamp.
- 7) If you are a returning vendor, your vendor number will not change, and you will use the stamp that was already issued to you. If you need a new stamp, we will order a new one for you.
- 8) We will also mail you WIC posters, the Vendor Manual, along with information on upcoming trainings.
- 9) Participation in at least one teleconference training each year is a program requirement for authorized Farmers' Market managers and FMNP / SFMNP vendors.

Please review the enclosed materials and contact us with any questions. You can expect authorization to take up to two weeks after we receive your application. For more information, contact:

- Alice Albrecht, WIC FMNP Assistant Coordinator at (907)465-8630 or email: Alice.Albrecht@alaska.gov.
- Elaine Nisonger, Senior FMNP Program Coordinator at (907) 269-8446 or email: Elaine.Nisonger@alaska.gov

We appreciate your commitment to providing fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs to WIC participants in your community.

Sincerely



Alice Albrecht
WIC Farmers Market Assistant Coordinator

Sincerely,



Elaine Nisonger
Sr. FMNP Program Coordinator

Enclosures: 2012-2013 WIC FMNP/Sr.FMNP Application Packet